

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A cardiac rhythm management device, comprising:

means for sensing atrial depolarizations;

means for sensing ventricular depolarizations;

means or interpreting sensed signals and detecting atrial or ventricular senses when the sensed signals exceed respective atrial and ventricular sensing threshold values;

means for measuring atrial and ventricular rates;

means for blanking the atrial sensing means for a blanking interval after detection of a ventricular sense; and,

means for shortening the blanking interval when a ventricular rate above a specified limit rate is detected.

22. (New) The device of claim 21 further comprising means for leaving unaffected a post-ventricular atrial refractory period used to limit an atrial-triggered pacing rate and prevent pacemaker mediated tachycardia when the blanking interval is shortened.

23. (New) The device of claim 21 further comprising means for increasing the specificity of the atrial sensing means when the blanking interval is shortened.

24. (New) The device of claim 21 further comprising means for raising the atrial sensing threshold value when the blanking interval is shortened.

25. (New) The device of claim 21 further comprising means for filtering sensed signals from the atrial sensing means with a narrower bandwidth when the blanking interval is shortened.

26. (New) The device of claim 21 further comprising means for discontinuing blanking of the atrial sensing means when a ventricular rate above a specified limit value is detected.

27. (New) The device of claim 21 further comprising means for delivering defibrillation shocks to an atrium.

28. (New) The device of claim 21 further comprising means for delivering atrial pacing pulses in accordance with an anti-tachycardia pacing mode when an atrial rate in a tachycardia detection zone is detected.

29. (New) The device of claim 21 further comprising means for delivering an atrial tachyarrhythmia therapy if an atrial tachyarrhythmia is detected wherein the atrial tachyarrhythmia therapy is selected between atrial anti-tachycardia pacing and an atrial defibrillation shock.

30. (New) The device of claim 21 further comprising means for delivering ventricular pacing pulses in accordance with an anti-tachycardia pacing mode when a ventricular rate in a tachycardia detection zone is detected.

31. (New) The device of claim 21 further comprising means for delivering a ventricular defibrillation shock when a ventricular rate in a fibrillation detection zone is detected.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Page 4

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Conclusion

Claims 1-20 have been canceled and claims 21-31 are newly added. Claims 21-31 are now pending. The Applicant respectfully requests that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to the examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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